

Tucson International Airport Area (TIAA)

Boundaries:

The TIAA site contains seven major project areas including: Air Force Plant 44 (AFP 44), Tucson Airport Remediation Project (TARP), the Airport Property, the Arizona Air National Guard (AANG) 162nd facility, Texas Instruments, Inc. (formerly Burr-Brown Corporation), the former West-Cap property and West Plume B. The site is located in the southern portion of Tucson, south of Ajo Way, north of Hughes Access Road, east of Alvernon Way, and west of Interstate 19.

Site History:

- Current and historical uses of the site include industrial and defense related facilities (electronics manufacturing, metal plating, aircraft maintenance, and weapons manufacturing) and residential uses. The site is also the location of the currently active Tucson International Airport.
- Historic industrial and defense related activities resulted in the release of hazardous substances into the soil and groundwater (mainly from the 1950s to 1970s) leading to extensive contamination of soils and groundwater at and near the project areas.
- The site was placed on the National Priorities List (NPL) in 1983. In 1988, EPA issued a site wide record of decision (ROD) for volatile organic compound (VOC) contaminated groundwater. Since that time, several additional decision documents have been issued by EPA for soil contamination.
- For more detailed discussion of the site history of each of the seven TIAA project areas, please refer to their individual web pages.

Site Status:

- Remediation systems are in operation at AFP-44, TARP, AANG 162nd, Texas Instruments, and West-Cap. Remediation systems are in the planning stages at the Airport Property, West-Cap, and West Plume B.
- For more detailed discussion of the site status of each of the seven TIAA project areas, please refer to their individual web pages.

Site Hydrogeology:

- The TIAA site is located within the Tucson Basin, a northwest trending alluvial valley covering an area of about 750 square miles in the Santa Cruz River drainage basin of southeastern Arizona. Site hydrogeology is complex and is detailed within reports and studies available at the TIAA information repository.

- The Tucson Basin is a broad, down-faulted, sediment-filled depression bounded by mountain ranges composed of crystalline rock. Thousands of feet of alluvial sediment, weathered and eroded from the surrounding mountains, were deposited in the Tucson Basin.
- Major west-northwest trending drainages intersecting the TIAA site include Airport Wash and Hughes Wash, both of which are tributaries of the ephemeral Santa Cruz River.
- The regional aquifer (historically targeted for groundwater resource development for public-supply purposes) is composed of three major hydrostratigraphic units: the upper zone of the regional aquifer, the lower zone of the regional aquifer, and the undivided regional aquifer.
- A middle aquitard divides the regional aquifer into upper and lower zones under most of the site.
- Depth to groundwater in the regional aquifer varies from 80 to 240 feet below ground surface (bgs). The general groundwater flow direction is toward the north-northwest.
- In the southern and central portions of the TIAA site, groundwater contamination has been found mainly within the upper zone of the regional aquifer as the vertical extent of contamination has been limited by the presence of the middle aquitard.
- For more detailed discussion of the site hydrogeology of each of the seven TIAA project areas, please refer to their individual web pages.

Contaminants of Concern:

Contaminants of concern in groundwater include trichloroethene (TCE), dichloroethene (DCE), chloroform and chromium. Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and metals contamination have also been found in some soils at the site. During Spring and Summer 2002, 1,4-dioxane was discovered at the AFP-44, TARP and the Airport Property project areas. Contaminants of concern may change as new data become available.

Public Health Impact:

All municipal wells in the area that were contaminated with VOCs have been shut down. The municipal water supply in the area now comes from wells outside the site and water produced from these wells meets all state and federal drinking water standards. Some privately owned domestic wells in the area have been impacted but have either been shut down or converted to irrigation wells. A few residents with domestic wells with low levels of TCE have chosen to continue using their wells. During late August and early September 2002, ADEQ sampled private wells for 1,4-dioxane. Nineteen private well owners agreed to have their well sampled. Of these, four wells were impacted by 1,4-dioxane. Areas with soil contamination at or very close to the surface have been excavated so that currently there are no known public health impacts resulting from contaminated soils.

Community Involvement Activities:

To provide community members with an opportunity to learn about the cleanup process and to obtain local perspective for decisions concerning the cleanup, a Unified Community Advisory Board (UCAB) was formed in 1995. The UCAB meets the third Wednesday of every other month (starting in January). These meetings occur at 6:00 p.m. at the El Pueblo Community Center located at 101 W. Irvington Rd. in Tucson and are open to the public. Recent EPA fact sheets include: EPA Proposes Plan to Address Groundwater Contamination at West-Cap and West Plume B Project Areas (June 2002). In addition, the U.S. Air Force publishes a semi-annual progress report for activities at Air Force Plant 44.

Information Repository:

Interested parties can review site information and documents at the TCE Superfund Information Library located at 101 W. Irvington Road, within the El Pueblo Branch Library in Tucson, (520) 889-9194. Site information is also available at both ADEQ's Southern Regional Office located at 400 W. Congress, Suite 433 in Tucson, and the main office located at 1110 West Washington Street, Phoenix. Files are available for review Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please call (520) 628-6735 to arrange a file review appointment at the Southern Regional Office. To arrange for a time to review the site file at the main ADEQ office, please call the ADEQ Records Center (602) 771-4378 or (800) 234-5677 (Arizona toll free).

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*In Arizona, but outside the Tucson area, call toll-free at (888) 271-9302.

**Call EPA's toll-free message line at (800) 231-3075.